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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 146, No. 5

The Magazine for a Strong America

MAY 1999

ARTICLES

- Does Anyone Ever Ask 'Why?' Any More?** By Patrick Brady
If speech can be other than verbal, why isn't flying the flag speech?

12

- Still the Noblest Calling** By J.D. Wetterling
Traveling exhibit helped veteran heal war wounds.

14

- The Revealing Rivers of Russia** By Georgie Anne Geyer
Decades of pain reflected in a country's rivers will take years to heal.

18

- Soldier of Song** By David Penticuff
Post's namesake pioneered modern jazz.

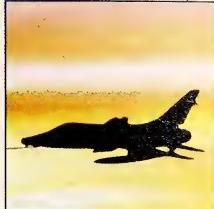
24

- Hollywood's Drill Instructor** Interview
Former Marine Dale Dye puts actors through their paces.

28

- Weapons on the Wall** By Layne Cameron
Posters played powerful wartime role.

30



14



18



28



30

DEPARTMENTS

- VETVOICE** 4 **WASHINGTON WATCH** 36 **VETS** 40

- COMMANDER'S MESSAGE** 6 **VETERANS UPDATE** 38 **PARTING SHOTS** 49

- LEGION NEWS** 8

COVER A sailor salutes the colors at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.
Carl Shaneff photo.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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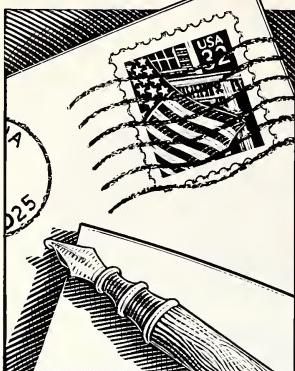
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meeting which was being held by a favorite son of St. Louis.

Drake M. Davis
West Bloomfield, Mich.

Editor's Note: Drake Davis presents a credible case; however, according to *The American Legion Library Director Joe Hovish, Harry S. Truman did not attend the Paris Caucus.*

Canal Update

THE PANAMA CANAL and all U.S. bases are going to be surrendered at the end of this year, and all U.S. troops will be gone, according to the unconstitutional Carter-Torrijos Panama Canal Treaties of 1977. The communist Chinese government right now controls ports at each end of the canal and is poised to move into defense sites – all in violation of U.S. rights under the treaties. In official documents, China calls the United States “China’s main enemy.”

I appreciate that *The American Legion Magazine* published my article which focused on the topic (The Last Ditch in American Giveaways, October), but I’m wondering why nothing is being done about this. I hope our current administration will not let the people down upon addressing this.

G. Russell Evans, Norfolk, Va.

Truman in Paris?

IN THE MARCH ISSUE, I could not help but stare at the photograph taken inside the Cirque de Paris. Almost centered on page 35, sitting with the 35th Div., is a three-quarter frontal view of Harry S. Truman. To verify my contention, I compared this photograph to that of his wedding photograph taken in June of 1919.

Here are some reasons why I believe this to be Truman: most of the delegates were officers; many of the units were from the National Guard; and Truman was an acquaintance of Bennett Champ Clark. So it would be a matter of respect that a person from Kansas City attend the

The Seven Rusters

RECENTLY READ about the “Five Harringtons” in January’s *Vetvoice*. I immediately thought of my seven cousins, all from one family, who served on active duty during World War II. My aunt and uncle had seven white stars hanging proudly in their front win-

dow. None of them ever changed to gold.

I was 11 years old when they all came home. I was inspired so much that I became an Army aviator in 1960. Hopefully someone will see the value of their service and acknowledge the fact that all seven came home.

Richard A. Rust, DeRuyter, N.Y.

Back to Basics

YOUR ARTICLE, *Teaching the Basics* (March), was the greatest. I’m really glad basic training at Fort Oglethorpe in 1944 was much easier. I don’t think I could have managed the obstacle courses and rappelling. The basic training taught today makes me very proud of our recruits.



Training in important values adds immeasurably to a strong, proud and right-thinking Army. I feel close to them even though I got through without being able to do even one push-up.

Arline L. Coopersmith, Venice, Fla.

Big Guns

IN RESPONSE to the *Vetvoice* letter in January, I wanted to inform your readers that it is no longer unlawful for a veteran to parade with his or her rifle uncased in Massachusetts. The Gun Owners’ Action League was successful in creating an exemption to our state’s new gun law for all ceremonial uses, drills and honor guards.

We have also been working to create additional changes to prevent re-enactors from being arrested. Any Massachusetts veterans interested in overturning the gun law may wish to join us in our rally on Boston Common, May 17, 11 a.m. Call (508) 393-5333 for more information.

Michael D. Yacino, Northboro, Mass.

Prison Vote

FELONS HAD the privilege to vote before they became criminals (Washington Watch, March). I am disgusted with lame-brained political ideas that aim blow after blow at the Constitution.

Vote the bad people out of office, and install those who know and act on the moral laws that undergird the Constitution. Saving human life ought to be more important than giving the vote to criminals convicted of felonies.

Jerry Brannen, *Bella Vista, Ariz.*

Active Listener

I WAS PLEASED to read your piece on Ken Hamblin (Conscience Without Color, January). When I lived in Denver, I listened to Hamblin as often as possible. One night while on my evening commute to Colorado Springs,

he made a statement that made me so angry I pounded the steering wheel and shouted at him. After I calmed down, it occurred to me, Hamblin had made me think instead of mindlessly listen.

Gary Hawhee, *Bedford, Iowa*

Jeep Trek

I ALMOST DROPPED the magazine when I saw the picture of the Jeep in February's Stars and Stripes For-



ever. I was the NCOIC of the Pusan Bureau of Stars and Stripes for 21 months in the early '50s. Our main job was to produce 85,000 copies daily and distribute them to all units of the United States and some foreign personnel in Korea.

It was the cold winter months when correspondent Sandy Colton (beside Jeep) and Air Force Master Sgt. Francis Casey acquired that vehicle and left Pusan for the trip up the roads to Seoul. The Jeep was actually a derelict left over from the big "Pusan Perimeter" push.

Seems there was a little logistical problem at the start of their trip, and I recall scrounging for white paint for the unofficial "100200" for the hood and windshield. The two enterprising young men pulled into MP posts where they were welcomed. I'm sure Sandy Colton did take copious notes along the way.

Howard Moore, *Ironwood, Mich.* □

Urge Your Senator To Co-Sponsor SJR 14

With Senate Joint Resolution 14, the flag-protection amendment, already introduced in the Senate, and the possibility of a vote any time, supporters of the flag-protection amendment should contact their senators and urge them to become co-sponsors. Telephone numbers can be obtained by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Letters should be addressed to: The Honorable (full name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

E-mails can be sent through a link on the CFA Web page (www.cfa-inc.org).

Remember to identify the legislation you're addressing (SJR 14), be courteous and to the point and when writing, try to keep letters to one page. At press time, 58 senators were co-sponsors with more planning to come on board. Senators who have no record of supporting the flag-protection amendment are:

California

Barbara Boxer (D)

Connecticut

Christopher Dodd (D)

Joseph Lieberman (D)

Delaware

Joseph Biden Jr. (D)

Hawaii

Daniel Akaka (D)

Daniel Inouye (D)

Illinois

Richard Durbin (D)

Iowa

Tom Harkin (D)

Kentucky

Mitch McConnell (R)

Maryland

Barbara Mikulski (D)

Paul Sarbanes (D)

Massachusetts

Edward Kennedy (D)

John Kerry (D)

Michigan

Carl Levin (D)

Minnesota

Paul Wellstone (D)

Nebraska

Robert Kerrey (D)

New Jersey

Frank Lautenberg (D)

Robert Torricelli (D)

New Mexico

Jeff Bingaman (D)

New York

Daniel Moynihan (D)

Charles Schumer (D)

North Carolina

John Edwards (D)

North Dakota

Kent Conrad (D)

Byron Dorgan (D)

Oregon

Ron Wyden (D)

Rhode Island

John Chafee (R)

Jack Reed (D)

South Dakota

Thomas Daschle (D)

Utah

Robert Bennett (R)

Vermont

James Jeffords (R)

Patrick Leahy (D)

Virginia

Charles Robb (D)

Washington

Patty Murray (D)

Wisconsin

Russell Feingold (D)

Herb Kohl (D)

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

West, VA Budget Headed in Wrong Direction

SADLY, ONCE AGAIN, veterans weren't included in the priorities President Clinton rolled out in his latest budget. While the president unveiled a something-for-everyone grab bag, administration officials were busy rejecting the Department of Veterans Affairs' request for \$963 million to fund much-needed medical initiatives. Of that sum, \$700 million alone was intended to help the VA cope with treating the burgeoning onslaught of Hepatitis C cases among veterans.

Perhaps the administration meant to celebrate Christmas in January, but Clinton's fiscal 2000 appropriations request for VA represents another shortsighted trip to "Flatline City," with stops at "Blue Smoke and Mirrors Junction" and "Unfunded Mandates Acres."

It didn't take long for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get VA Secretary Togo D. West Jr. in their sights when he appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee to defend this budget. It was hot work for West when he was forced to justify the VA's fiscal standstill to Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, who labeled the budget, "a slap in the face of every veteran."

"It didn't take much digging ... to discover the administration's proposed 2000 budget gives veterans the cold shoulder ..."

Coming Up Short. The \$43.6 billion request includes \$18.1 billion for medical care provided through the Veterans Health Administration, far short of the \$19.5 billion The American Legion recommends to stem continued reductions in patient care. The VHA has proposed increases for additional medical priorities such as expanding emergency care for service-connected veterans, homeless veterans, long-term care for a rapidly aging veterans' population and the addition of 89 outpatient clinics. And all this with no real increase in appropriations.

Stump doesn't fool easily, and he plainly isn't buying the administration's attempt to exaggerate potential savings through further cuts while it inflates anticipated collections from insurance companies for veterans' medical care. The VA is relying on increased collections through the Medical Care Cost Fund, but recent history shows optimism to be, at best, unreliable.

The budget, Stump adds, doesn't take into account medical inflation, increased capital costs and the steady stream of new mandates to provide specialized care without the means to pay for them.

House of Cards. Another committee member, Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., seemed appalled his own party could propose 70 new funding schemes for the president's pet projects, but stand pat on spending for veterans' medical care. Evans praised several provisions, but overall found the 2000 budget blueprint a "house of cards," which "may work for a while but eventually ... will fall." Evans estimates the administration proposal under-funds veterans programs by at least \$2.5 billion.

Neither of these veteran lawmakers are political Pollyannas or "the sky is falling" types. But they know a freeze out when they see it. It didn't take much digging for them to discover the administration's proposed 2000 budget gives



NATIONAL COMMANDER "BUTCH" MILLER

veterans the cold shoulder and violates this nation's traditional covenant with those who served their country.

Among the budgetary fictions West must maintain is the belief that VA can eliminate another 7,000 employees—added to the 20,000 jobs lost to previous austerity measures—and save an estimated \$1.4 billion through more efficient management, all without affecting its ability to serve its clients.

Taking the Hit. But let's examine what's going on here. Since the mid-1980s, Congress and successive administrations have targeted veterans' benefits to take a hit in the service of balancing the federal budget. Now that we have a budget surplus, why don't we hear proposals to restore these benefits, or to strengthen VA's positive reforms? In my testimony last fall before Capitol Hill lawmakers, I made the case for carrying the reforms initiated within VA in 1994 to their logical conclusion by adopting provisions of The American Legion-authored GI Bill of Health.

Now, this session, lawmakers should adopt this blueprint for change which will generate revenue from non-appropriated sources and enable the VHA to meet the health-care needs of America's veterans and their eligible dependents in the 21st century.

For their sake, we can't go back, and we won't stand still for VA budgets headed to "Flatline City." □



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Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., announces the introduction of a flag-protection measure. Among those joining Cunningham at the news conference were retired New York Congressman Gerald Solomon, a former Marine and the lead man on previous House flag-amendment measures, and his successor, Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y. The measure's other main sponsor is Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa.

Courtesy of Murtha

Flag Amendment Introduced in Congress

WASHINGTON — Flag protection measures have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate.

Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., and Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., introduced **House Joint Resolution 33** Feb. 24 to amend the Constitution in order to allow Congress to pass laws prohibiting physical desecration of the American flag.

"As we near the new millennium, it is imperative that we finally enact protections for our flag and get over this recurring hurdle," Cunningham, a Vietnam veteran from San Diego who represents California's 51st District, said during a Capitol Hill news conference. "This Congress is committed to doing everything we can to ensure our symbol of national pride and freedom is protected — that the embodiment of our democracy and unity is preserved. This legislation ensures this goal is met."

Cunningham pointed to previous strong bipartisan support for the measure and the fact that more than 275 members already are co-sponsors as strong indicators the bill will soon attract the two-thirds majority — 290 votes — required for passage.

Three weeks after the House news conference, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., introduced a flag protection measure in the Senate. Soon after its introduction, there were already 58 co-sponsors for **Senate Joint Resolution 14**.

S.J. Res 14 has been assigned to Hatch's Senate Judiciary Committee, several members of which co-sponsored the measure.

An Issue for Everyone. Citizens Flag Alliance board chairman Patrick Brady was among those who spoke at the House news conference Feb. 24. Brady said polls showing continued strong public support for flag-protection legislation offer lawmakers a uni-

fying, positive issue to embrace, a tonic to the disunity and cynicism that mirrors Capitol Hill's post-impeachment atmosphere.

"We have been through one of the most divisive periods in American history," Brady said. "Congress must prove that it is possible for both parties to come together on the people's business, to be unified in the name of their welfare. It's time to stop wagging the dog and start waving the flag. It's time to stop focusing on the things that divide us and focus on those that unite us."

With passage by both chambers of the 106th Congress, the flag-protection amendment will pass to the states. Ratification requires approval by 38 states, a three-fourths majority, within seven years. Since the Supreme Court's 1989 ruling in *Texas v. Johnson*, 49 states have petitioned Congress to approve a flag amendment to ratify.

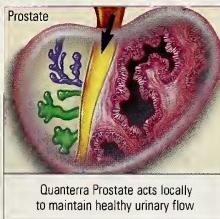
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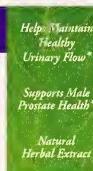
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No Action on Tobacco Claims Bills

THREE BILLS to restore tobacco-related medical benefits denied veterans in the 105th Congress have been assigned to committee, with no hearings scheduled in the opening months of the 106th Congress. A bill introduced by Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., amending **Title 38, USC**, to include veterans' health care needs in any future settlement of tobacco lawsuits brought by the government, was sent to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Meanwhile, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., has signed up 49 co-sponsors for **H.R. 832**, the Veterans Tobacco-Related Illness Benefits Restoration Act of 1999. This bill, which restores the right of veterans addicted to nicotine during military service to file for disability compensation for illnesses that developed after service, has also been assigned to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Earlier this session, Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, introduced **S. 72** to accomplish the same purpose. Her bill awaits a hearing in the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Legionnaires interested in seeing action on these bills can contact the respective committees at the following addresses:

House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman, Rm. 335, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman, SR-412, Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510.

Legion Coaching Clinic Targets Trainers

Howard Q. Moody, National Rifle Association coach trainer, understands his mission: "Competitive shooting cannot exist without coaches. It's not like football or any other sport where there is a large pool to choose from - these coaches must be developed."

To further this development "H.Q." was brought in to The American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis to put on the National Coaches Development Staff Training earlier this year. The purpose of the seminar was to train the participants - most of whom had experience with target shooting, hunting or practicing firearm safety - to instruct the two-day Coaches Certification Course. Three such courses have been previously offered by the Departments of Indiana, Colorado and Connecticut.

The three-day, NRA-assisted program began with a review of marksmanship history. "Coaches have a responsibility to teach shooters that we should be proud of our shooting tradition," says Moody.

While reviewing the facilities requirements, many Legionnaires are surprised that most Post homes are large enough to host such activities. An indoor range simply needs to be 33 feet long with an additional 15 feet behind the firing line for a ready area.

The philosophy of competitive shooting is simple: "Get your teams to compete in as many events as possible, including sectional events," says Moody. And if there are none? "Organize one of your own."

Air Rifles. With questions answered and the basics covered, the air rifles were removed from their cases and given to the aspiring instructors. Each participant was taught the three different shooting positions: standing, prone and kneeling.

What makes the course unique is each person participates as student, coach and observer. The different perspectives improve retention of each lesson.

Watching any JSSP competition, coaches and spectators alike witness firsthand the shooters' sharpened mental skills. That intense focus, consistent action and ability to perform under pressure is not limited to the shooting range, either. To develop these skills, coaches are taught the value of goal-setting, keeping a training diary, establishing a training plan and having their shooters constantly analyze, measure and rank their own results.

Similar coaches certification courses put on by private clubs can cost attendees nearly \$200. The American Legion program, however, charged participants only for lodging and food. National paid



Legionnaire Tom Johnson makes a point while holding a Daisy 853 air rifle during training for coaches courses.

TOMMY TRUITT/LEGION

for the course materials and the instructors' transportation and lodging costs. A \$6,290 grant from the NRA Foundation also helped to defray the costs.

"Any Department, Post or District can host a coaches course," says Dave Rehbein, chairman of the Youth Activities subcommittee. "You need to have an adequate-size classroom (most Post homes have enough space) and housing for the participants." For more information, call or write: Mike Buss, JSSP Coordinator, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; (317) 630-1249; mbuss@legion.org. □

- Layne Cameron

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DOES ANYONE EVER ASK 'WHY?' ANY MORE?



Patrick Brady

By Patrick Brady

THE AMERICAN GI has always been the most lethal weapon on any American battlefield. Why? Because he never fought like a robot. He asked why. Why are we doing it this way? Is there a better way? And he usually found one. We could all learn from our GIs. We are constantly bombarded with inane sound bites, shot at us from the courtrooms, the classrooms and the cloakrooms and legitimized in the newsrooms. It is awful that this offal is propagated as "truths" and no one asks why anymore.

Why is flag burning protected speech and prayer is not? What is said when

you burn a flag? If speech can be other than verbal, why isn't flying the flag speech? And burning the flag an assault on speech?

If flag protection will destroy the Bill of Rights, why did it not do so during the 200 years in which the people had the right to protect Old Glory?

Why is pornography protected by the First Amendment and the Bible not?

Why does our legal system deify the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, and demean the Ten Commandments?

Where in the Constitution does it say that we must tolerate conduct which the majority find evil or offensive? What has such toleration to do with freedom?

Where in the First Amendment do we find the words "conduct," or "expressive conduct" or even "expression"? Why did the author of the First Amendment denounce flag burning if it is speech?

A Need for Reverence. I recently received a letter from a senator decrying the right of the people to protect their flag in which was written, "I do not believe a reverence for our country and its symbols can or should be imposed by law." I find that to be a remarkable statement. Reverence as a feeling of awe or respect is of course an abstract, and cannot be measured, or even known, let alone imposed. But reverence as an act of respect can be known and measured in many ways. Reverence for our country is evident in the acts of our patriots. Would people go to war and die for something they did not revere? What if we had a war and no one came? Should we reject a draft for

fear it would impose reverence by law? Why is it illegal to burn a draft card, which is really the symbol of forced reverence in a time of crisis? The mentality that says we should do nothing to foster respect for symbols of our country is not only fatuous, it is alarming.

You don't have to revere Martin Luther King Jr. or George Washington, but you'd better not deface our symbols of them.

This type of twaddle is closely allied with the concept that you cannot legislate morality or patriotism. Who says? What tells you more about a nation than its system of justice? How many of our laws came from the Decalogue, which is a moral code? What are our laws if they are not morality in action? And if our laws do not foster a love of country, of our neighbors, of our land and of our leaders, and promote service to others and to America, how long will we survive?

"If speech can be other than verbal, why isn't flying the flag speech?"

Some Important Questions. Those of us who would like to see the right to protect Old Glory returned to the people are asking why. Why shouldn't our laws reflect our values? Why should the outrageous act of a minority outweigh the will of the majority? Why should the courts, and not the people, be able to amend the Constitution? Who owns the Constitution, the courts or the people? Why does the Supreme Court allow the flag to be burned anywhere – except on its steps? We are not trying to force people to revere the flag; we are trying to force the government to allow the people to decide. We believe the will of the people, a people who ask why, is our surest guide to a secure future in a country they revere, a country governed by laws they respect.

The sooner we begin to take exception with many accepted absurdities, the sooner this will happen. □

Patrick Brady is a Medal of Honor recipient and retired U.S. Army major general. He serves as the chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance board of directors.

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Still The Noblest Calling

Traveling exhibit helped veteran come to grips with the loss of friends in Vietnam.

BACKGROUND PHOTO COURTESY J.D. WETTERLING
PHOTO DIGITALLY ALTERED BY JON REYNOLDS

By J.D. Wetterling

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I VISITED WITH three old friends recently at a park near my town. It seemed like only yesterday that we were all together, but actually it had been 28 years. There was a crowd at the park that day, and it took us a while to connect, but with the aid of a computer we made it. I found Lance at panel 54 W, line 037; Lynn over at panel 51 W, line 032; and Vince down at panel 27 W, line 103.

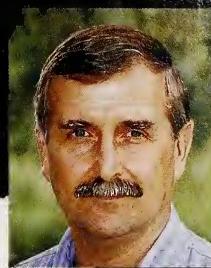
In 1968, we were gung-ho young fighter pilots in Vietnam, the cream of the crop of the U.S. Air Force pilot training system, and now their names are on that 250-foot-long, half-size model of Washington's Vietnam War Memorial that moves around the country. I had intentionally avoided visiting the wall when it came to town in years past because I did not trust myself to keep my composure. But after nearly three decades it was time to try for some closure on this issue. I told my wife that I preferred to go alone, if that was all right. Truth be known, I nearly backed out at that.

(More on next page)

F-100 at dawn over Vietnam, returning from a night scramble off the alert pad in April 1969 (background photo).

1st Lt. J.D. Wetterling prepares for another mission in Vietnam (below).

Wetterling today (right).



KAREN WETTERLING



COURTESY OF J.D. WETTERLING

Dancing the Wild Blue. Standing in front of that somber wall, I tried to keep it light, reminiscing about how things were back then. We used to joke about our passionate love affair with an inanimate flying object – we flew F-100s – and we marveled at the thought that we actually got paid to do it. We were not draftees but college graduates in Vietnam by choice, opting for the cramped confines of a jet fighter cockpit over the comfort of corporate America. In all my life I've not been so passionate about any other work. If that sounds like an exaggeration, then you've never danced the wild blue with a supersonic angel.

I vividly remember the Sunday afternoon, in the summer of '68, when we flew out of Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on a troop transport headed for Vietnam. Lynn, Lance and I crowded around the same porthole and watched the Golden Gate Bridge disappear below broken clouds. We had gone through fighter pilot school together and had done some serious bonding. In an exceedingly rare moment of youthful fighter pilot humility, I wondered if I would live to see that bridge again. For reasons I still don't understand, I was the only one of the three of us who did.

Once in Vietnam, we passed the long, lonely off-duty hours at Dusty's Pub, a lounge that we lieutenants built on the beach of the South China Sea at Tuy Hoa Airbase. The roof at Dusty's doubled as a sun deck and the walls were nonexistent. The complaint heard most often around the bar, in the standard gallows humor of a combat squadron, was, "It's a lousy war, but it's the only one we have." We sang mostly raunchy songs that never seemed to end – someone was always writing new verses – and, as an antidote to loneliness, fear in the night and the sadness over dead friends, we often drank too much.

Vince joined us at Dusty's Pub halfway through my tour of duty, and since he was a like-minded country kid from Montana, we hit it off. He had a wide grin, slightly stooped shoulders and his own way of walking – he just threw his feet out and stepped on them. But what he lacked in military bearing he made up for with the heart of a tiger. He often flew as my wingman, and we volunteered for the night missions on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. One starless night, the longest, saddest night of my life, we got into a nasty gun duel with some antiaircraft

artillery batteries. I watched Vince die in a mushroom-shaped fireball that for a moment turned night into day.

Lance – a New York boy who took unmerciful grief from us because he talked like a "New Yawker" – crashed into the side of a mountain in the central Vietnamese highlands while attacking a target. Lynn, a happy-go-lucky jock from Pennsylvania's Slippery Rock College with a hound named John the Bassett, returned to his base on a stormy night in July after weather aborted his mission. Two miles of wet runway weren't enough to stop an F-100 landing at 160 knots with all its bombs still on board. He ran off the end, flipped over and slid through the minefield at the perimeter fence, setting off a gruesome sound and light show.

At the wall, I told the guys only about the good parts of the last 28 years. Lacy, one of our associates from Dusty's Pub, became an astronaut, and a few summers ago I watched from my backyard, near Tampa, as he blasted off. His voice over the radio from space was at least an octave lower than it was the day I heard him radio for help while swinging from his parachute, hung in a tree in Laos.

Another Dusty's patron, Rick, is now a two-star general, and I reminded them what we used to say about the military promotion system – it's like a septic tank, only the really big chunks float to the top.

I didn't tell them how ostracized Vietnam vets still are; that during that same week, one of the nation's leading newspapers had run an article that implied we Vietnam vets were, to quote one syndicated columnist, "either suckers or psychos, victims or monsters." I didn't tell them that the secretary of defense they fought for back then has now declared that he was not a believer in the cause for which he assigned them all to their destiny. And I didn't tell them we lost that lousy war. I gave them the same story I've used since the Nixon administration: We were winning when I left.

I relived that final day as I stared at the black onyx wall. The dawn came up like thunder after 268 combat missions in 360 days in the valley of the shadow. The ground trembled as 33 F-100s roared off the runway, across the beach and out over the South China Sea, climbing into the rising sun. On the eastern horizon, a line of towering deep-purple clouds stood shoulder-to-

shoulder before a brilliant orange sky that slowly turned powder blue from the top down.

From somewhere on that stage, above the whine of spinning turbine blades, I could hear a choir singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" in fortissimo: "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and He was bringing me home, while Lance and Lynn and Vince will remain as part of the dust of Southeast Asia until the end of time.

I was not the only one talking to the wall through tears. A leather-vested, bare-chested biker two panels to my left was in even worse shape. I backed about 25 yards away from the wall and sat down on the grass under a clear blue sky and midday sun that perfectly matched the tropical weather of the war zone. The wall, with all 58,200 names, consumed my field of vision. I tried to wrap my mind around the megatombstone of violence, carnage and ruined lives that it represented. Then I thought of how Vietnam was only one small war in the history of the human race. I was overwhelmed with a sense of mankind's wickedness.

God, Duty, Honor, Country. My heart felt like wax in the blazing sun and I was on the verge of becoming a spectacle in the park. I arose and walked back up to the wall to say good-bye and ran my fingers over the engraved names – Lance and Lynn and Vince – as if I could communicate with them in some kind of spiritual Braille.

I wanted them to know that God, duty, honor and country will always remain the noblest calling. Revisionist history from elite draft dodgers trying to justify their own actions will never change that.

I have been a productive member of society since the day I left Vietnam. I am proud of what I did there, and I am especially proud of my friends – heroes who voluntarily, enthusiastically gave their all. They demonstrated "no greater love" to a nation whose highbrow opinion makers are still trying to disavow them. May their names, indelibly engraved on that memorial wall, likewise be found in the Book of Life.

J.D. Wetterling is a Vietnam veteran and author of the novel "Son of Thunder." His essays have appeared in various national and regional publications.



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The REVEALING RIVERS *of* RUSSIA

Stalin's purges and seven decades of communist rule inflicted great pain, but Russia's pre-Soviet beauty remains.



By Georgie Anne Geyer

IT WAS EARLY evening in the lovely old city of Yaroslavl on the Volga River, five sad hours directly east of Moscow, and I was stunned, even today, by the beauty of the Orthodox churches, cupolas, turrets and crosses that still rose above this nearly 1,000 year-old city.

But our young guide, Valerie, seemed to feel only sorrow at the sight. "We still have pre-revolutionary prints of Yaroslav," he said, his voice becoming more melancholy as he spoke. "Once, it looked like a fairy-tale city. There were 77 practicing Orthodox churches, six monasteries, two Roman Catholic churches, one Protestant church, four synagogues and three mosques! Each merchant built a church bigger and fancier than the others."

But in 1917 the "Great Russian Revolution" had come, followed by Joseph Stalin's rampages in the 1920s and '30s through the rich cultural past of Christian Orthodox Russia. "They had plans to destroy all the churches, but couldn't destroy them all," Valerie went on, his voice a mixture of sarcasm and muted rage. "In the year 2010 we will celebrate our millennium as a city. So now we have 22 active Orthodox churches — and none of the rest."

At that moment, we came to the main square where, incongruously, a statue of Lenin, arm upraised in the triumph of his era's communism, still stood. Why, I asked, had this Lenin, unlike almost all the others in Russia, not been taken down? Valerie smiled wanly. "Leave it there," he answered angrily. "Let it remind us of our history!"

Even that first day into this unusual trip through the past and present of Russia, I began to realize I was seeing Russia's true saga laid out before me in new

ways. I had made eight trips to Russia and the Soviet Union between 1967 and 1998. I had seen the gray totalitarianism of the old Soviet Union, the initial hopefulness of the new areas in Siberia and Central Asia and the gradual disillusionment of the youth with communism. But I had never seen the actual *Russian soul* laid bare as I did on this trip that, in truth, explored much more than merely her northern rivers and waterways.

If this Russia were a play, its first act would be today's Moscow, a city so apparently transformed from its old, gray, imperial self, that one would think, first, that it had actually become a working, prosperous world capital.

But the newly painted pink, blue and green facades of the old mansions; the "Maxim's" restaurants; the Russian "mafiosos" and their "oligarch" bankers who dominate the streets with their western Mercedes: all cloak a drear, corrupted and desper-



2

1 Bathers enjoy the Volga River near the Ipatevsky Monastery built in the 14th century.

2 Moscow offers many more conveniences than the villages of Russia. Shoppers visit the G.U.M. department store.

ate Russia. Industry has crawled to a stop; 60 percent of Russia's food is now imported; life expectancy has fallen 10 years since 1991.

Worse, cloaked by "glittering" Moscow, Russia is now coming close to being the world's first criminalized state. Under the oligarchs, who are a handful of ruthless men who rose by their wits to buy out the big state enterprises for

nothing when they were "privatized," \$300 billion was siphoned out of Russia over the last six years. Whereas 19th century Russian merchants at least built treasure cities like Yaroslav, these oligarchs have only looted the country.

Indeed, when our group of international journalists met in Moscow with top Russian leaders in the spring of 1998, even Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told us that a disintegration of the Russian federation, which he did not dismiss as a possibility, would lead to "global catastrophe."

But if Moscow is Act I, then the countryside around the capital is the even more revealing Act II.

Act II. The very moment we left the borders of Moscow that morning, we saw nothing between the occasional Orthodox church and crumbling Kremlin fortress except peasant shacks. Village after village, mired in the muds of central Russia (was Chekov or Tolstoy per-

haps suddenly going to stride out and greet us sternly with: "Didn't we warn you about Mother Russia?")! Touchingly, many of the huts were nobly trimmed with charming wood carvings; but most seemed only gnarled and bent over, like their inhabitants.

It was only that night, after we had boarded our ship – a pleasant, small, modern East German ship built in 1990 and named after a Russian communist hero – the "Gleb Krijajonovski," that, in a humorous way, we came face to face with a Russia that still only crouches uneasily (and sometimes, ridiculous) upon the edges of modernity.

By then, we were sailing the darkening Volga northward, toward the Arctic Circle. The river was beautiful and narrow at this point; the waters, very cold. Soon after dinner, we were called by our two women guides, Nina (dingy blonde, seemingly eternally pursed lips, excessively neat, purely old Soviet) and Diana (black curly hair, filled with deviltry, always on the run, hopefully "new Russian") to meet in the ship's little conference hall. But, of course! They want to give us some safety information – as on any ship.

But, when we asked about safety precautions, they looked confused.

"Well, it's only 20 meters deep," Nina assured us. "You can see the shore," Diana chimed in (not so "new" Russian, after all?). "We've never had any problems before," Nina then reassured us.

Later, equally perplexed at our persistent questioning, the captain told us, "Well, there are safety jackets." Where? "Somewhere!"

We gave ourselves up to God.

Act III. As we passed out of the Volga and into the northern canals and then great lakes of the Russian north, many of us stood quietly mesmerized on the deck. First, there was the construction of the waterways. As early as 1703, Peter the Great, who had dreamed of opening Russia to the hated – and envied – West, had decided to connect such a river/canal and lake system to unite this center of Russia. Little by little from then on, each czar filled in a little more of the puzzle; but the entire system had really only come together when Stalin employed slave labor to dig by hand many of the linking canals.

This gigantic and primitive built project was to become one of the Soviet Union's most compelling examples of the grandiose cruelty and will of the period and of its sheer technological backwardness.

Then, in another century – and, indeed, in another world – we came to Act IV, to Goritsky.

Act IV. During our first two days on the rivers, every few hours, the good ship Krijajonovski would pull over to some of the low, rolling hills along both sides to hook up at some remote mooring. But it was on the second afternoon, when we pulled over to that greatest-of-all monastery town, that I truly began to feel the past in a

**"We had seen, at
every turn of 'the
river,' how many
years it will take
for this splintered
... land to come
together again."**



The "Morianas" dance Russian-style near the Volga River.

Villages like Goritsky bear little resemblance to urban Moscow.

Russia

new way.

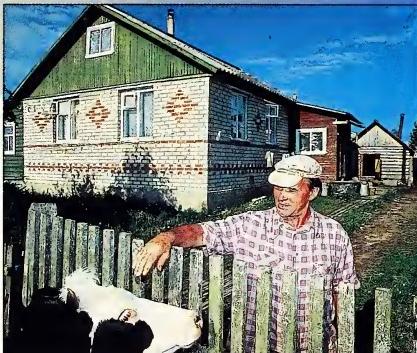
After a short bus ride through the village, we came to the ancient monastery of Goritsky. Situated on 30 acres, its walls alone stretched a mile and a half. The monastery had 11 churches and a glorious old cathedral, with golden domes and golden ancient courtyards.

Built in the 16th century, Goritsky once housed 200 monks, with 20,000 serfs involved in maintaining the monastery. It had its own salt mines and trading system, and its churches boasted beautiful embroidery (they called it "painting with a needle"). The monastery was closed by Stalin in 1930 — and only in 1997 did President Boris Yeltsin sign a document giving the monastery (though not the land) back to the Orthodox church. One monk alone had lived there, protecting his precious, forgotten outpost, for 40 years.

You could roam about its huge open squares and correctly assume that you were in, not a church, but a major town of the realm — and, in fact, you were.

River Monasteries. From these monasteries, which extend along this river system of central Russia, church bells would ring out, angelic trumpets calling to the faithful, their message radiating out as far as they could be heard.

Its message rooted in these monastery-towns, the Orthodox Church



J. BRENNER/ENAR/UNICOM

came to consider Moscow nothing less than the "Third Rome," after Rome and then Constantinople. This early Russian religious messianism led directly into secular Soviet communism, with many of the same autocratic and collectivist characteristics.

I asked some of the villagers about their lives "out here." All seemed far more robust than the city people; because of their private garden plots, they have better nutrition. One young mother of a cute, blond, healthy-looking boy of about 9 pointed to a wooden house, small but pleasant-looking, where they lived. "Oh, yes, I prefer it out here," she said enthusiastically. "Greatly! They leave us alone. We have no trouble, and plenty to eat. Of course, there are no jobs — we just live."

New Moscow. When I asked several of the villagers what ties they now had to the "new" Moscow, all looked blank for a moment. One man volunteered, "There is occasionally a train to the bigger towns, and, yes, there are buses. We can go to Moscow, but we don't

very often." Town administration? Government? They all smiled. "We have our own mayor, our own leaders," another man volunteered. Then they pointed to a spare but modern building, stucco-simple, which was the city hall. It all seemed to me as if it were working quite OK (this semi-isolation, so typical of Russia today, is everywhere; at least 10 cities with more than half a million population cannot be reached during seasons when the rivers freeze over).

By the time we had gone across these waterways; by the time we visited the extraordinary wind- and wave-tossed Kizhi Island where early Finnish-Russian settlers had built exquisite wooden churches that are wonders to this day; and by the time we crossed the huge Lake Ladoga which from 1941 to 1943 served as the Russians' lifeline for starving Leningrad, the play was over. Or at least, these first acts were.

We had seen first-hand the degree to which Russia's major problem today is its raging emptiness of belief — and why such a chasm is so awful for a land with its past presumptions of messianic suzerainty over not only Russia, but all mankind. We had seen, at every turn of "the river," how many years it will take for this splintered and undefined land to come together again under some new system of belief and of definition.

The popular and distinguished Russian philosopher Igor Chubais declares, in words that truly represent the new Russian soul today, "We understand that we are no longer the Soviet Union. We understand that we are not the Russian empire. We understand that we are not Western Europe. But then, who are we? Until we have developed a new identity, we cannot conduct serious, reasonable, logical, consistent policies."

In the years to come, answers to those questions, and then new resolutions, will come, but slowly, and only after new internal struggles within the Russian soul and the Eastern mentality, struggles that started so long ago. □

Georgie Anne Geyer is a syndicated columnist on foreign affairs for Universal Press Syndicate. Her columns appear in more than 120 newspapers in the United States and Latin America. She is also a regular panelist on Washington Week in Review and Voice of America. Of her seven books, two are on the former Soviet Union and on Russia.

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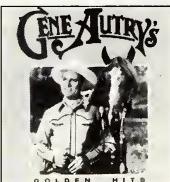
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Soldier of Song

Before the dawn of the 'jazz age,' James Europe brought a new style of music to war-time France and early 20th-century America.

By David Penticuff

NO NATIVE CABBY in his prime can navigate the congested workday traffic of Washington, D.C., with more proficiency than 84-year-old Samuel McNeal.

A veteran of three wars, a Past Department and Past Post Commander, McNeal wheels his private car through the northeast quadrant of the city up to a string of red brick row houses. He parks under the curious eyes of two men on a concrete porch next to his

home Post — James Reese Europe Post No. 5. Born five years before the Post's namesake died, he wedges "The Club" across the steering wheel, clicks the automatic locks and, in final preparation to enter the Post, arms the auto's alarm system.

Inside the building, on long-standing walls, hang aging pictures of a glorious Post past. Many feature African-American men in full marching band regalia proudly posing with musical instruments. One frame holds a trio of photos, all portraits of the considerable form of Lt. James Reese Europe, two of

which have him holding a baton in the air, perpetually directing unseen musicians.

"He's just a name now," McNeal says of Lt. Europe, who grew up in the nation's capital, near the home of Marine Corps band leader John Philip Sousa. Europe's remains are buried at nearby Arlington National Cemetery, but few people who today pass through the Post's doors know who he was, McNeal says.

When he was laid to rest in 1919, Europe, the first black American to lead U.S. troops in battle during World War I, was so profound an American hero that there was talk of establishing a day to recognize him, or building a monument to keep the composer and soldier in the collective recollection. Teddy Roosevelt Jr., a founder of The American Legion, paid tribute to him at a memorial service while Hamilton Fish, another founder and once Lt. Europe's commander, attended his funeral.

Memorial of Music. Posterity, however, can be fickle. Europe's work, which helped develop a new music called jazz, continued its up-tempo evolution and memories of him were lost in the blur. This American Legion Post is the sole memorial to Eu-



'People like Europe were trying to advance not just a musical cause, but a political one as well.'

**Michael Morgan
Symphony Director**

David Penticuff is a former assistant editor of this magazine.

rope beyond his grave marker; this and the music heard everywhere, around the world, all of the time.

"The usual way of thinking has jazz being introduced to France in 1921 by Marion Cook," according to Reid Badger, Europe's biographer and a former professor of American studies at the University of Alabama. "But Europe was experimenting with all of the elements we'd call jazz — his approach was different. He's the essential link between ragtime, with its syncopated beat, and jazz, with its syncopated improvisation. And he did it before the Jazz Age."

Europe was born in Mobile, Ala., in 1880. His family moved to Washington, D.C., when James was 9 years old. The boy's proximity to Sousa and the U.S. Marine Band combined with the tutelage of violinist Joseph Douglass, grandson of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, to discipline Europe's native talent.

Elevating the Form. "He was a trained musician who recognized popular music had artistic value at a time when popular music was

band leader for the dance duo of Vernon and Irene Castle. Vernon, Irene and James Europe and his band toured the country and elevated previously uncouth "ragtime" dances to acceptability. Suddenly, the rage in high-class rug cutting was a dance called the foxtrot — conceived by Europe.

"I have found that dancing keeps husbands and wives together and eliminates much drinking," Europe was quoted as saying, "as no one can dance and drink to excess."

Michael Morgan, in his ninth season as music director of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, has studied Europe's work.

"So many of those people were wonderfully well-trained," Morgan says of musicians at the dawn of the century. Europe's work was precise, professional and always showed a mastery of fundamentals. Today more opportunity for musicians exists while musicianship is in decline, largely due to lack of proper training in schools.

"People like Europe were trying to advance not just a musical cause but a political one as well," says Morgan. "Because of them, it's a lot easier now than it was. ... It's still not easy."

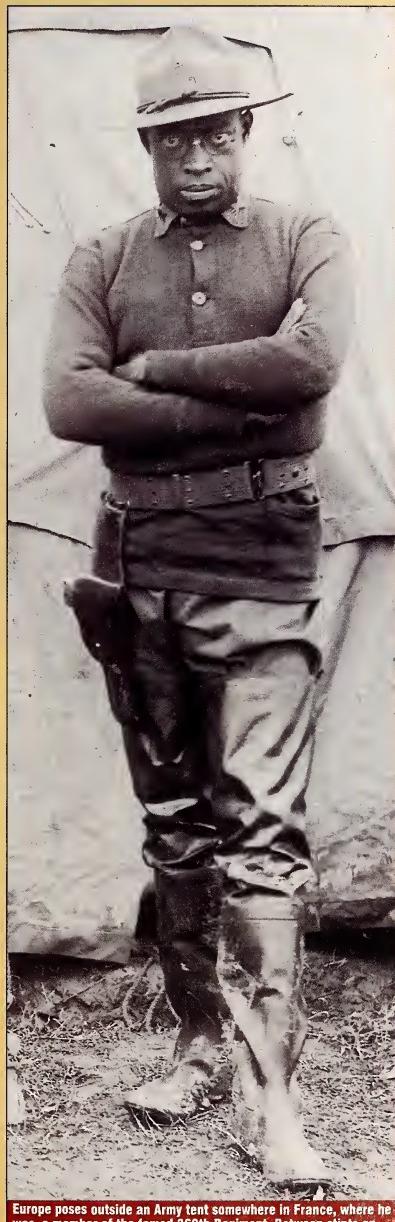
Valiant Soldier. The first black musicians union and booking agency in New York, called the Clef Club, was organized and operated by Europe during the period he helped pioneer modern dance.

"He was our bene-

**'He was a trained
musician who
recognized
popular music
had artistic value
at a time when
popular music
was thought to
be low class.'**

thought to be low class," says Badger. "His music was art. It was not sloppy. Duke Ellington came out of Jim Europe; he was of the same sophisticated mold."

As an early-century dance craze swept New York, Europe became



Europe poses outside an Army tent somewhere in France, where he was a member of the famed 369th Regiment. Between stints on the front lines, Europe conveyed American musical culture to the war-weary French.

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Soldier Of Song

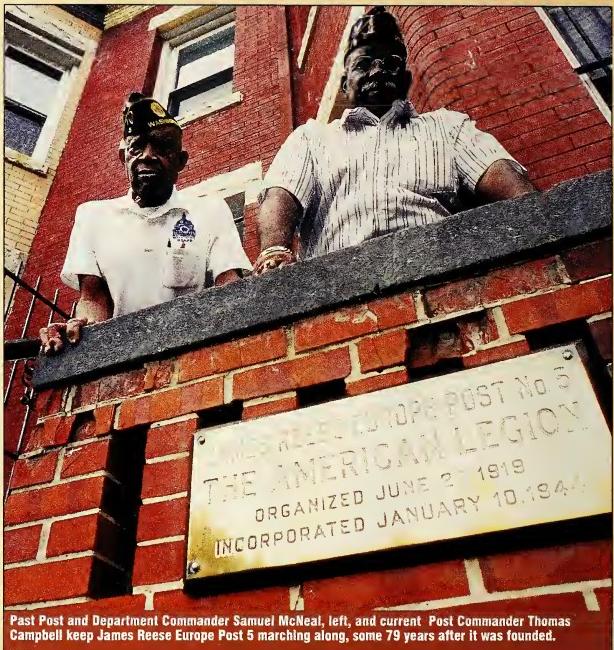
factor and inspiration," the late pianist Eubie Blake recalled about Europe many years after the veteran's death. "Even more, he was the Martin Luther King of music."

Europe enlisted in the Army in 1916 and helped organize a band for the 15th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard — a black regiment for a segregated Army. As a soldier, Europe performed valiantly. In the spring of 1918, he led troops under fire. The 15th became the storied 369th "Harlem Hellfighters," who never relinquished an inch of ground they were expected to hold during the difficult trench warfare of the Western Front. He also participated in a daring night raid on German positions and was himself gassed in the course of battle. But Badger says Europe's main value to the Army and the war effort was always as a band leader.

Col. William Hayward helped Europe form the band and allowed Europe to recruit musicians from Puerto Rico. It was a military band that played familiar tunes with a unique jazz twist. "Responses to Europe's band were so strong, they were sent all around France to perform for troops," Badger says.

The French people heard an earful, but perhaps not as much as they wanted. According to a story by band member Noble Sissle in the June 10, 1918, edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "The 'jazz germ' hit them, and it seemed to find a vital spot, loosening all muscles and causing what is known in America as an 'eagle rocking it,'" the article read. "All through France the same thing happened. Troop trains carrying Allied soldiers from everywhere passed us en route, and every head stuck out a window when we struck up a good old Dixie tune. Even German prisoners forgot they were prisoners, dropped their work to listen and pat their feet to the stirring American tunes ... I was satisfied that American music would someday be the world's music."

Live bands were special then. "The emotional power of music is still realized," Badger says, "But with the prevalence of recorded music, I don't know if people today can understand the importance of listening



Past Post and Department Commander Samuel McNeal, left, and current Post Commander Thomas Campbell keep James Reese Europe Post 5 marching along, some 79 years after it was founded.

to a band. There was no way to get it but by live performance."

Europe returned with his fellow troops to the United States and a ticker-tape parade in February 1919. He began touring with his band.

On May 9, Europe was preparing for a performance at Mechanics Hall in Boston. Gov. Calvin Coolidge had invited Europe to perform on the steps of the State House the next day. Europe's promise was never brighter and his popularity never greater. But a musician named Herbert Wright, one of Europe's own drummers, unleashed a rage against the band leader with little warning. Wright claimed the bandmaster had been showing favoritism to his twin brother, who was another percussionist with the band. Wright suddenly, and in full view of witnesses, stabbed Europe in the neck with a pen knife, leaving what appeared to be a superficial wound. But the bleeding wouldn't stop and Europe, in his prime, died that day at a local hospital.

He received the first public funeral for a black man in New York City on May 13, according to Reid's book titled, "A Life in Ragtime." Thou-

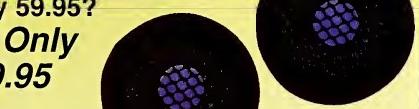
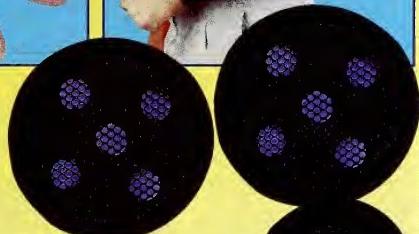
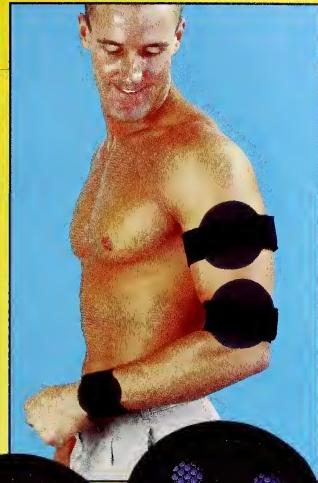
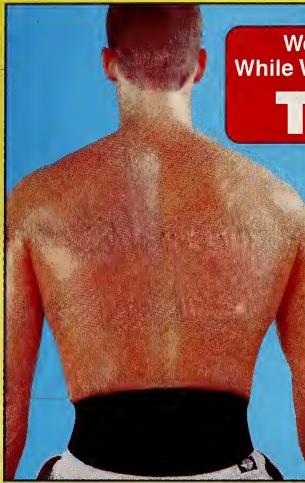
sands of people, black and white, turned out to pay their respects in a procession that was his final parade. The body was then taken to Arlington. A movement for a "National Musical Memorial Day" in his honor faded as did the effort to fund a Harlem music school that would have carried his name.

A Musical Post. But in a forty-and-eight car, Pennsylvania Railroad box car 10196, on June 14, a month and a day after Europe's death, James Reese Europe Post 5 was organized at Washington Navy Yard. There remain 275 current members of the post, which was once noted for the magnificent bands it sponsored and for the battles it waged for civil rights — working for integration of the armed forces during the 1930s.

Music has always been important at the Post. In 1935, a member dropped dead during a parade in Washington, D.C., and his widow asked that he be buried in his drum and bugle corps uniform. The commander granted the request.

It was an honor James Reese Europe would have understood.

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INTERVIEW DALE DYE

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When it comes to accurate big screen portrayals of the military, Dale Dye is the Officer in Charge.

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Saving Private Ryan director Steven Spielberg (l-r), Dye, art director Tom Sanders and actor Tom Hanks discuss options in portraying the D-Day landings.

YOU MIGHT not know Dale Dye's name, but you probably know his work. The retired Marine captain founded WARRIORS, Inc., a unique organization that advises Hollywood filmmakers on military matters. In addition to serving as military consultant for *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), Dye's film credits include *Platoon* (1986), *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Casualties of War* (1989) and *The Thin Red Line* (1999).

Dye was born Oct. 8, 1944, in Cape Girardeau, Mo. An only child, he graduated as a cadet officer from Missouri Military Academy and in 1964 enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dye served twice in Vietnam, in 1965 and 1967-1970. He survived 31 major combat operations and received three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with "V" for valor. Dye spent 13 years as an enlisted man before entering the commissioned ranks. After leaving the Corps, Dye served as editor of *Soldier of Fortune*.

Dye and his wife, Kathryn, have a 10-year old daughter, Adrienne. Free-lance writer Judith Hayes interviewed Dye for *The American Legion Magazine*.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Tell us about your childhood and family life.

DALE DYE: My father was a wonderful man. He had a creative soul full of promise. He was loving, and an inspiration to me. Unfortunately, he was living in difficult times in the rural south and was deeply depressed. He found solace in drinking "moonshine" and became an alcoholic.

My parents separated when I was about 13 years old due to my dad's heavy drinking. Both my parents turned to alcohol. I desperately wanted them to be together. Once I pleaded with my dad to stop drinking and come home. I was too young to understand it wasn't that easy to get sober and stay that way.

My dad had moved back home to live with his parents ... I would go to visit him often in the country. One day I went off alone to a nearby creek to go fishing. Suddenly I heard a loud shotgun blast. Somehow in my gut I knew that dreaded sound came from my grandparents' house. I dropped my fishing gear and ran home.

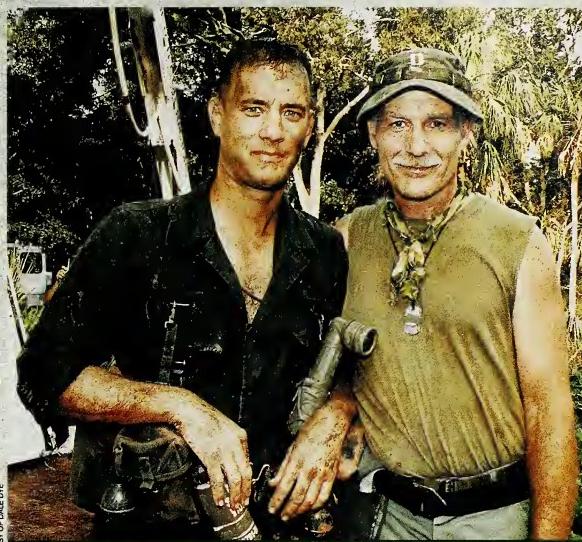
I found my father lying dead ... on the sun porch. ... That was my first horrifying experience dealing with violence, death and loss. I realized early on that life was going to be tough. I was left with a lot of pent-up emotions inside of me.

Q. Was it around this time that you felt inspired to become a soldier?

A. I was 13 years old when I realized I wanted to be a warrior. I felt that being a soldier was the greatest service I could give to mankind and my country.

Q. What lessons did you learn while serving in Vietnam?

A. After I killed my first Vietnamese, I found myself in a moral quandary. I was ordered to take a life for the sake of my country. It deeply affected me and I still have nightmares about it. I also learned that life is precious, fragile and worth risking for the right cause.



COURTESY OF DALE DYE
Dye also worked with Tom Hanks on the film *Forrest Gump*.

Q. What was your assignment in the Steven Spielberg movie *Saving Private Ryan*?

A. To prepare the actors for the reality of serving in the military and authentically portraying the lives of WWII soldiers. It was boot camp. We spent 10 days in combat training in the cold rainy forests northwest of London. During the training, I worked on taking the ego out of the actors. They had 5 a.m. wake-up calls, worked 16-18 hour days, ran five miles a day, ate two rationed meals and slept in military-issued sleeping bags on the cold wet ground. There were no luxuries available.

Q. Did any of the actors want to quit your version of basic training?

A. Yes. Several actors had a difficult time adjusting to the uncomfortable conditions and being treated like grunts. I had to push them to get them moving. I would not let them quit unless they had legitimate medical problems.

Q. *Private Ryan* star Tom Hanks was one of the actors you put through training. What was your impression of him?

A. I think Tom is a common man with an uncommon talent. He has great inner strength and morality. He could survive out of his comfort zone. He was aware of the noble sense of history, service and sacrifices made by the soldiers in WWII. He would make a fine soldier and leader.

Q. What do you think was the crucial message of *Saving Private Ryan*?

A. I felt we were leaving behind a legacy. Our country needs insight into the real travail of war and its effect on mankind. □

WEAPONS ON THE WALL

"It is now plainly apparent that in the building up of both the American Army and Navy, the poster is destined to play a part of greatest importance." —THE POSTER, May 1917

By Layne Cameron

THE INSTRUCTORS and students of the Art Institute of Chicago received a letter in 1917 which forecasted the critical role posters would serve during both World Wars:

"The present emergency is calling every individual to the colors. ... In this hour of manifold duties there is a place for the artist and the art school. A host of things must be learned by the public and learned quickly — patriotism, self-sacrifices and intelligent conservation must be inspired."

With that charge, artists, the likes of



The Sowers — 1942. Thomas Hart Benton faithfully accepted the charge of the artists' mission, and created eight of the most powerful paintings to be released during the world wars. He believed an artist had two choices: to fight or "bring the bloody actual realities of this war home to the American people." Few would question Benton's patriotism after viewing "Sowers," a morbid portrait of the barbarity of fascism.

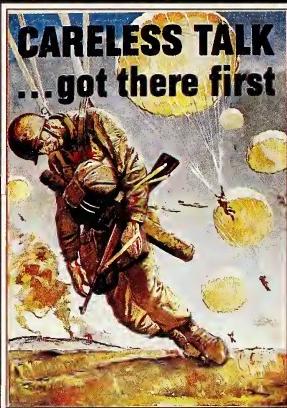


Take Up the Sword of Justice — 1915. Bernard Partridge's 1915 "Take Up the Sword of Justice," captured the tragedy of the sinking Lusitania, and effectively used a sword-wielding "Britannia" to implore young men to enlist.

You Buy 'Em, We'll Fly 'Em — 1942. The House Ways and Means Committee estimated World War I cost America more than \$30 billion — two-thirds of which was funded through the four "Liberty Loan" and final "Victory Loan" campaigns. An artist named Wilkinsons illustrated the benefits of such investments with a smiling airman, flying to victory in the best plane money could buy.

*"you buy ém
we'll fly ém!"*





Careless Talk Got There First – 1944. Casual comments at bars, gossip and loose lips were all deemed tools of the enemy. Americans were encouraged to muffle such commentary via caricatures of Japanese and Germans hovering nearby with exaggerated ears. Other artists, like Herbert Morton Stoops, opted for a more solemn tact and graphically portrayed the end result with dead paratroopers falling from the sky.

Nurses are Needed Now – 1945. During World War II, women redefined the word "manpower." Few question their effectiveness during the war. An artist named Bernatchke contributed "Nurses Are Needed Now!" in 1945 to this genre – beautiful, strong, willing to serve on the front lines, but in a more traditional role.



Save the Products of the Land – 1918. The U.S. Food Administration commissioned Charles Livingston Bull to bring to life, "Eat more fish – they feed themselves." Today, the slogan sounds humorous. During the war effort, though, such conservation was deemed necessary for victory. In that same vein, other posters urged citizens to use less coal and gasoline, make due with materials on hand and, of course, plant more victory gardens.

Rockwell, Christy and Disney were commissioned by seemingly every government agency to capture these values on canvas. Message points were then distilled to simple, powerful slogans which accompanied the paintings: "Uncle Sam wants you," "You buy 'em, we'll fly 'em," "Plant victory gardens," "Together we win" and "Loose lips sink ships."

Historians and writers like Derek Nelson praised the placards for rallying the American public behind the war effort. Nelson ranked the posters high in America's arsenal – on the level with tanks, planes, rifles and grenades – when he penned the moniker "weapons on the wall." □

Layne Cameron is an assistant editor of this magazine.

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From experimental drugs to those with FDA approval, pharmaceutical companies strive for effective, cure-all antidotes.

tion of the joints. A new prescription painkiller called Celebrex may offer hope for the nearly 40 million in the United States who have the disease.

G.D. Searle's Celebrex is a treatment alternative designed to relieve symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. It targets pain and inflammation by inhibiting a type of enzyme, but limits side effects associated with often-prescribed medications such as Naproxen and Ibuprofen, which have been linked to stomach ulcers and other gastrointestinal side effects because they inhibit both good and bad enzymes, says Kristin Fayer, public affairs director for Searle. "What our scientists discovered," explains Fayer, "is that if you could suppress ... the 'bad enzyme,' but spare (the enzyme) which maintains the normal stomach lining, then you would have a medication that has (fewer side effects)."

In clinical trials, Celebrex was linked to fewer stomach ulcers than both Naproxen and Ibuprofen.

Fighting Bacteria. Perhaps no other medical breakthrough has been as important as the development of antibiotics. More than 130 million doses of antibiotics are prescribed each year in the United States. Popular medications such as Amoxicillin, Suprax and Cefaclor are taken to fight the millions of infections that surface. But prolonged exposure to antibiotics has caused many patients to become immune to their bacteria-fighting capabilities. Merck and Company hopes to reverse this "antibiotic resistance," in which bacteria mutates to survive in the presence of an antibiotic.

MK-826 is an experimental antibiotic designed to kill bacteria, including many that have built up a resistance to common antibiotics. Merck designed it for the treatment of community-acquired diseases such as pneumonia, urinary tract infections, obstetric and gynecologic infections, intra-abdominal infections and skin infections. MK-826 works by halting the formation of the bacterial cell wall, ultimately killing the cell.

MK-826 is in the final phase of clinical testing and, if approved, could hit the market during the next couple of years. □

GOOD CHEMISTRY

Pharmaceutical companies hope to bring individuals happier, healthier lives.

By Julie Rhoad

IHE COMMERCIAL success of drugs like Ritalin, Viagra and Prozac has pharmaceutical companies competing harder than ever to find the next wonder drug that could make life a little easier — and profits a little higher. Within the next couple of years, new medications to combat headaches, arthritis and infections will be on the market.

Migraines. It's estimated that nearly 10 percent of Americans suffer from migraines — painful, throbbing headaches often accompanied by vision

problems and vomiting. Migraines can last anywhere from four hours to a full week.

"(Many sufferers) do not seek treatment because they have been unsatisfied with the results," says Dr. Alpheus Bingham, vice president of sourcing innovation with Eli Lilly and Company. "We feel this is an unmet medical need."

Migraines are related to blood flow and, recent studies suggest, a neurotransmitter called serotonin. Lilly is working on a drug aimed at treating the pain while eliminating cardiovascular side effects linked with some current migraine products, such as chest discomfort. The new compound would work by targeting serotonin in the brain, while ignoring serotonin receptors in other parts of the body.

The compound, which is in the final phase of clinical development before regulatory approval, would be available by prescription in pill form.

Arthritis. Affecting even more Americans is arthritis, a debilitating disease characterized by pain and inflamma-

By Cliff Kincaid

Vaccines for Soldiers

THE FORCE HEALTH Protection Program, with its mandatory anthrax vaccinations for all service members, continues to generate controversy, even hysteria. One-third of a National Guard unit in Connecticut quit rather than take the shots. Soldiers around the country have been discharged for refusing vaccinations.

The Pentagon and The American Legion argue it's a necessary part of biological warfare defense. "The vaccine is safe and is a needed protection for our troops in case of an anthrax attack," says Matt Puglisi, assistant director of the Persian Gulf Task Force for The American Legion. Puglisi also has taken the vaccine.

Furthermore, the Pentagon says the vaccine has been administered "safely and routinely" for more than 25 years to veterinarians and livestock handlers who were exposed to anthrax in animals.

The key, Washington attorney Mark Zaid argues, is to find those vets and animal workers and document how healthy — or sick — they are today. This would go far, he says, toward countering growing fears.

More Shots

AS PART of President Clinton's plan to spend \$10 billion to fight terrorism, the Department of Health and Human Services is scheduled to receive \$43.4 million, mostly for production and storage of "new vaccines" to counter biological and chemical weapons.

But one of the newer vaccines for children, the shot to prevent hepatitis B — which is required in 38 states and the District of Columbia — is already prompting lawsuits. In France, mandatory hepatitis B vaccinations have been suspended because of reports of dangerous reactions, including neurological disorders.

Prosperity's Downside

CHEAP FOREIGN OIL is a blessing and a curse. It's fueling American prosperity but depressing the American oil



Army recruits receive mandatory shots which, in the future, may include anthrax vaccine.

industry, creating a crisis of foreign energy dependence that threatens national security. More than 50 percent of U.S. oil is now imported, and employment in the oil and gas industry has declined by almost 500,000 jobs since 1984.

A bipartisan Senate coalition, led by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is seeking passage of a legislative package of tax credits and incentives to boost U.S. oil production. Her U.S. Energy Economic Growth Act lists Democratic Sens. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana as sponsors.

Another sponsor, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okl., complains that the United States has "conspired with the U.N." to double the amount of oil Iraq can export but has done nothing to encourage U.S. oil production.

Iranian Resistance

NOW THAT CONGRESS is funding military aid to Iraqi resistance groups such as the Iraqi National Congress, can taxpayer dollars for the Iranian resistance be far behind? The National Council of Resistance of Iran has alarmed Capitol Hill with reports that Tehran is accelerating development of a secret biological weapons program, including mass pro-

duction of anthrax and installation of biological agents on long-range missiles.

At a news conference, NCR representative Soona Samsami provided names of those in charge of different sections of the program, and said that work is proceeding under the cover of developing veterinary vaccines. As for Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, his "moderation is a myth," she said, adding that a science and technology group within his office supervises the weapons program.

Bank Frauds

THE NEW CHAIRMAN of the Senate Banking Committee, Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, has a full agenda. He wants to examine hedge funds that destabilize financial markets. But the General Accounting Office has identified another problem — money laundering through U.S. banks.

The GAO reports that convicted murderer Raul Salinas, the brother of the former president of Mexico, allegedly laundered as much as \$100 million between 1992 and 1994 through New York-based Citibank. The GAO says Citibank failed to follow "know-your-customer" banking practices which would have disclosed his suspicious transactions. □

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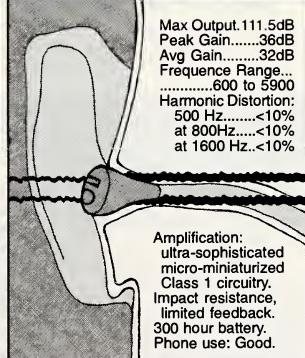
This month these guys are in the hearing aid business. Their hearing aids are made in some Asian country perhaps by underpaid, overworked unskilled people using inferior, poorly made possibly even used components. They have no quality control, no FDA registration and as I said before... **You Get What You Pay For.**

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Telemedicine Used To Treat Paralyzed Veterans

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is funding a series of innovative projects that will use telemedicine to enhance the home care of paralyzed veterans, announced VA Secretary Togo D. West Jr.

The Telemedicine in Home Care projects will be based in 15 special spinal cord injury/dysfunction centers located at VA medical centers in 11 states, and will serve veterans throughout the nation. More than \$500,000 has been earmarked for this initiative.

According to West, the projects help demonstrate how a relatively low-cost new technology can be used to significantly improve care of some of the VA's most medically fragile and complicated patients.

The primary objective of the VA Telemedicine in Home Care program is to improve the timely access and quality of care for spinal cord patients who are transitioning from hospital to home care.

The Telemedicine in Home Care projects are the latest in a series of measures VA has implemented in recent years to improve care for paralyzed veterans.

The project awards involve these VA medical centers: Albuquerque, N.M.; Augusta, Ga.; Brockton/West Roxbury, Mass.; Bronx, N.Y. (three projects); Cincinnati, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Hines, Ill.; Long Beach, Calif.; Memphis, Tenn.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Palo Alto, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.

VA To Open Eight New Outpatient Clinics

WASHINGTON — The VA recently announced creation of eight new community-based outpatient clinics in Michigan, Texas and Nevada as part of the agency's ongoing program to improve access to VA health care.

These new additions bring to nearly 260 the number of new outpatient clin-

ics established in the last three years. VA currently operates a total of 551 outpatient clinics and more are in the planning stages.

The popularity of community clinics is shown in part by workload data. While VA inpatient admissions have declined by nearly a third since fiscal

year 1995 (284,000 fewer admissions in 1998 compared to 1995), the outpatient visit workload has gone up by more than a third, 9.2 million visits, for a total of 35.8 million outpatient visits in fiscal year 1998.

Treating veterans at the most appropriate levels, VA says, allows VA to

The Ultimate Sacrifice: Concert To Honor Vets

The National Memorial Day Concert will be broadcast live from the U.S. Capitol by PBS, National Public Radio and the Armed Forces Radio and Television network May 30 at 8 p.m. EDT. The show will feature guest artists performing with the National Symphony Orchestra and will include coverage of the Navy's contributions in the Pacific during World War II.



VETERANS UPDATE

care for far more veterans each year. The total annual number of patients treated rose from 2.9 million to 3.4 million over the past four years.

Those very numbers, say American Legion officials, expose the ill-conceived budgetary constraints under which the VA labors as it struggles to provide more care to deserving veterans with less resources. Accelerating outpatient care merely highlights the administration's short-sighted approach that freezes medical care funding at \$18.1 billion for fiscal year 2000 to meet funding caps imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. That's far short of the \$19.5 billion that The American Legion argues is necessary to offset medical inflation and avoid further staff reductions.

In addition to a new structure providing for regional coordination of care, VA has reformed its eligibility rules to provide a full continuum of inpatient and outpatient acute care services to veterans who enroll in the VA health-care plan.

Enrollment for VA services can be accomplished at any time by calling, toll-free, (877) 222-8387. VA encourages veterans to enroll before they need care. There are limited copayments required of higher-income veterans having no service-connected disabilities, but care always is provided at no cost to the veteran needing care for a service-connected condition, according to VA officials.

The new clinics and their parent VA medical centers include:

Flint, Mich. (Genesee County), Ann Arbor, Mich., VAMC;

Pontiac, Mich. (Oakland, Macomb & Wayne Counties), Detroit, and Ann Arbor, Mich., VAMCs;

Ironwood, Mich., Iron Mountain, Mich., VAMC;

Lansing, Mich. (Clinton, Eaton & Ingham Counties), Battle Creek, Mich., VAMC;

Traverse City, Mich. (Grand Traverse County), Saginaw, Mich., VAMC;

Greenville, Texas (Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Red River, Rockwall and Titus counties), VA North Texas Health Care System;

Cleburne, Texas, VA North Texas Health Care System; and

Parham, Nev., Las Vegas VAMC.

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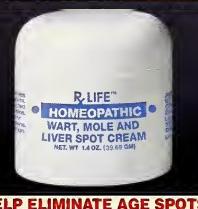
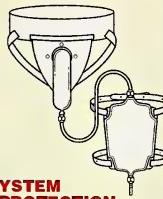
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COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices are published only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Officers.

1st Force Logistics Cmd, Camp Book, Danang, Vietnam. Jack G. George Jr. seeks HQ Co Corpsman and Supply Co Cooks, Hut 358, Danang, Vietnam who may have witnessed an incident in which George was hit by enemy fire in September 1967. 1413 8-3-1 AT&T Unit, Ft. Bliss, Texas. Glenn G. Cary seeks SFC M. Polanco, who witnessed a severe personal assault the afternoon of July 2, 1973. 1414.

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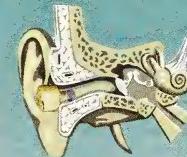
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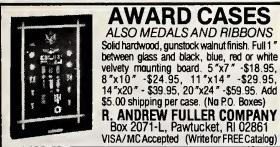
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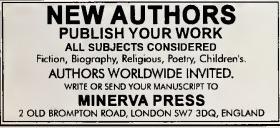
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— Julia Reed, *New York Times Magazine*

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— British politician Paddy Ashdown, *Observer*

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— Humorist Cullen Hightower, *Readers' Digest*

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— Eli Noam, communications consultant

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with Full S-t-r-e-t-c-h Waist

Full Elastic Waist with
Front Zipper & Snap Closure



Tan

Maize



Imported

Cream

Grey/
Green

Tan

Blue

S-T-R-E-T-C-H WAIST

Wear them with a belt or without;
you'll love the comfort!

The cool, crisp cotton and polyester poplin is just right for long hot summer days & it's 100% NO IRON machine wash and dry easy care too.

Plus you get:

- Full elastic waist **AND** belt loops
- Front zipper and snap closure
- **NO-IRON wash & wear**
- 2 front pockets
- 2 back flap button thru pockets
- 6 FAVORITE COLORS: Choose from Tan, Spruce, Grey, Stone, Maize & Cadet Blue & shirts to match!

Matching shirts only \$10 each

Handsome patterns accent chest!
A perfect match to the slacks!
Handy chest pocket. Roomy
pockets. Cotton/polyester knit.
100% Wash & Wear. Imported.
Sizes: S(34-36), M(38-40),
L(42-44), XL(46-48),
2XL(50-52), 3XL(54-56)
and 4XL(58-60)
All sizes one low price!

Cadet
Blue

Haband!
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Peckville, PA 18452

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of Purchase Price at Any Time!

2 Big Side Pockets!
2 Button-Flap Back Pockets!



Belt Loops too,
including Center Back!



Stone

**2 pairs for only
2995***

FREE POSTAGE
If you order now!

3 for \$43.75 4 for \$57.50 5 for \$70.95

New
Customer Offer

Haband 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Peckville, PA 18452

Send _____ pairs of slacks & _____ shirts. I enclose \$_____ purchase price plus \$9.95 toward postage and insurance.

Postage is FREE on this order!

GA residents add sales tax.

WAISTS:	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
PLEASE ADD \$3 PER PAIR:	46	48	50	52	54		
INSEAMS: S(27-28), M(29-30), L(31-32), XL(33-34)							

Slacks 2 for \$2995

Matching Shirts \$10 each

7A6-0R6		What Waist?	What Inseam?	How Many?	7A6-1AN		What Size?	How Many?
A	TAN				P	CREAM SHIRT		
E	MAIZE				G	GREY/GREEN		
F	SPRUCE				J	TAN SHIRT		
C	Grey (not shown)				H	BLUE SHIRT		
G	STONE							
H	Cadet Blue							

Check Discover/Novus® Visa MasterCard
PLEASE PRINT: _____ Exp.: _____ / _____

Card # _____

Mr. _____

Ms. _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City & State _____ Zip _____



For fastest possible service call 1-800-742-2263 Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!